

Hampton Wedge Historic District
237 S. McAllister Avenue
Springfield
Greene County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1253C

HABS
MO,
39-SPRUE
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWING

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Historic American Buildings Survey Architectural and Historical Data

237 SOUTH McALLISTER AVENUE

Location: Springfield, Greene County, Missouri
Cadastral grid : NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S24, T29N, R22W
USGS quadrangle: Springfield Missouri 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
UTM coordinates: 15.475165.4117805
Present Owner: Homer D. and Anne B. Wampler and Lester B. Cox
Present Usage: vacant

Statement of Significance: Located on the west edge of a neighborhood known historically as the East End (and presently as the Hampton Wedge), this single-story frame cottage is one of many small houses occupied primarily by blacks serving the households of the nearby town houses on Saint Louis and Walnut Streets. With its steeply pitched pyramid roof with flared eaves and hipped dormers on the front and sides, it presents an unusual configuration for this neighborhood.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: ca. 1905 (original section)
2. Architect/builder: not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: 237 South McAllister Avenue is sited on a 50'x 103' tract of land legally described: beginning at the northwest corner of McDaniel and McAllister Streets, north 50', west 103', south 50' and east to the beginning. The following references are taken from the abstract for the property, presently held by the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority of the City of Springfield, Missouri:

- 1978 Quit Claim Deed, 28 August 1978; Recorded in Book 1693, page 718. Franklin D. Blackwell to Cleta F. Blackwell.(consideration: \$10.00).
- 1976 Guardian's Deed, 7 December 1976; Recorded in Book 1641, page 1436. Beatrice Smith, incompetent, by Mae Berta Vassal, guardian, to D. Blackwell and Cleta F. Blackwell.(consideration: \$4700.00).
- 1945 Warranty Deed, 19 November 1945; Recorded in Book 795, page 349. Mamie Penn, formerly Mamie Looney, single and unmarried to Rufus Smith and Beatrice Smith. (consideration: \$1 and other).
- 1941 Quit Claim Deed, 5 February 1941; Recorded in Book 681, page 602. James Carl Looney to Mamie Penn (formerly Mamie Looney) (consideration: \$1 and other).
- 1928 Warranty Deed, 12 March 1928; Recorded in Book 552, page 448. Henry McClure to Margaret J. Ellgin and Henry F. McClure. (consideration: \$1 and love and affection).
- 1888 Warranty Deed, 11 October 1888; Recorded in Book 99, page 500. Anderson L. Wilburn and Jane Wilburn to Vina Clark. (consideration: \$100.00).

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- 1884 Warranty Deed, 8 May 1884; Recorded in Book 51, page 565.
William G. Porter and Emma Porter to Vina Clark. (consideration: \$150.00).
 - 1883 Warranty Deed, 2 July 1883; Recorded in Book 51, page 90.
William G. Porter and Emma Porter to Anderson L. Wilburn. (consideration: \$100.00).
 - 1881 Warranty Deed, 9 June 1881; Recorded in Book 45, page 285.
William W. Jeffries and Elmira E.A. Jeffries to William G. Porter, Jr. (consideration: \$650.00).
 - 1879 Warranty Deed, 8 March 1879; Recorded in Book 36, page 296.
Peter Lair and Fannie Lair to W.W. Jeffries. (consideration: \$90.00).
 - 1869 Warranty Deed, 16 April 1869; Recorded in Book 7, page 617.
E.T. and E.J. Robberson to Peter Lair. (consideration: \$375.00).
 - 1866 Warranty Deed, 26 February 1866; Recorded in Book S, page 35.
Sample Orr and Emeline Orr, heirs of James Dollison, deceased to E.T. Robberson, "undivided one-fifth part of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, excepting about 58 acres sold by said James Dollison during his life time." (consideration: \$1250.00).
 - 1865 Deed of Attorney, 5 December 1865; Recorded in Book N, page 358.
Sample Orr and Emeline Orr by J.R.D. Thompson to Edwin T. Robberson, "the undivided one-fifth part of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, remaining unsold by James Dollison, deceased, and being some 100 acres, more or less, of said tract which was the property of said James Dollison at the time of his death and by decent cost, the said undivided one-fifth part became the property of said Emeline Orr." (consideration: \$1250.00).
 - 1865 Warranty Deed, 17 June 1865; Recorded in Book N, page 138.
James G. and Florence E. Dollison, James C. and Paulina Franklin, Samuel and Mary E. Gott and Nancy Williams (nee Dollison), heirs-in-law of James Dollison, deceased, to Edwin T. Robberson, "the four undivided one-fifth parts of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, excepting about 58 acres sold by James Dollison during his lifetime." (consideration: \$4000.00).
 - 1848 U.S. Land Patent, 1 September 1848; Recorded in Book 326, page 84.
United States of America by the President James K. Polk to James Dollison. (consideration: Certificate #4-205r).
 - 1837 Plat Book of Entries, 1 December 1837. United States of America to James Dollison.
4. Original plans, construction of house: The original house form is uncertain. The 1910 Sanborn Insurance Map indicates a single-story, single-pen house with an offset front porch and a small detached shed immediately behind the main building. Evidence (siding and foundation joints) suggests that this was the basis for the existing building, which has been enlarged substantially.

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5. Alterations and additions: The building has undergone extensive alterations. At some time between 1910 and 1933 the first major addition occurred with the expansion from its original single-pen size to a much larger double-pen 1½-story configuration. To the rear of this have been made two additional shed additions for the rear porch and bathroom. Other alterations have been comparatively minor, involving replacement of component parts as maintenance has dictated.

B. Historical Persons and Events Associated with the House

This house has been occupied primarily by black laborers, none of which have been distinguished historically. The two longest term residents were Vina Clark, listed at various times as a laundress or a cook, and Oscar Penn, porter, laborer and truck driver.

C. Sources of Information

1. Old views: none located.
2. Bibliography

a. Primary Sources

Sanborn Insurance Map, New York, N.Y.: Sanborn Map Company, 1910 and 1933

Springfield City Directories, 1894-1930, various publishers.

Tax Records: 237 South McAllister Avenue, Greene County Assessor's Office, Springfield Missouri.

b. Secondary Sources

Flanders, Robert, Principal Investigator. "A Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed University Plaza Project, City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri: 1981," Southwest Missouri State University Center for Archeological Research, October 1981.

Quick, David. "Historic Inventory," inventory card for 237 South McAllister Avenue, Missouri Office of Historic Preservation, Jefferson City Missouri, May 1981.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The house is a simply massed and detailed vernacular structure, unlike its neighbors with its flared pyramid roof and dormers on three sides - an unusual house type in a predominant vernacular neighborhood.
2. Condition of fabric: poor - fair; most interior elements have been stripped from the building in anticipation of its demolition.

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B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: main section 37'1"x 26'2"
rear additions: 7'0"x 26'2"
2. Foundations: coursed rubble stone perimeter walls under eastern section; poured-in-place concrete under western section
3. Walls: main section: horizontally placed beveled siding with plain corner boards; southwest addition: vertical boards-and-battens with screens over; southeast addition: celotex panels with horizontal battens. All exterior elements are painted white.
4. Structural system: lightweight framing using milled lumber.
5. Porches: An open wood porch extends along the east (front) facade; it is supported at the rear by the main building in an extension of the main roof and at the front by four equally spaced tapered square columns. S4S balusters support the handrails between the main columns, with built up square corner posts at either end. A screened rear porch extends most of the west (rear) side.
6. Chimneys: two stuccoed brick interior stove chimneys, supported inside by knee braces.
7. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: A single-leaf four-panel (the uppermost panel is a large light), inswinging door is the main entrance; the doorway also features a Victorian decorated wood screen with scrollsawn and turned elements. The entry is centered on the east facade.
 - b. Windows: Two 1/1 double-hung windows are centered on the east facade, flanking the doorway. The south side has three similar openings, the north, two. All window frames have moulded drip caps and plain board casings and slip sills. Each dormer contains a single smaller 1/1 double-hung window with plain enframement.
8. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: The roof over the main building is an asphalt shingled steeply pitched pyramid with flared eaves. The rear additions are sheltered by a shallowly pitched hipped roof with asphalt sheet roofing (southwest) or shed roof with diamond-shaped asphalt shingling (south-east).
 - b. Cornices: simple boxed horizontal cornices on all roofs.
 - c. Dormers : small hipped dormers centered on east, north and south hips.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plan: The main entrance opens from the covered front porch into a small anteroom. From this doors enter into the living room on the south and a bedroom on the north. Behind the living room, through a large arched opening, is the dining room; behind that is the kitchen. Behind the front bedroom is the stair to the attic and behind that another bedroom. A long screened rear porch extends three-fourths of the width of the building, and the northwest corner is occupied by a small bathroom.

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2. Interior finish: Interior walls are finished with paint, patterned wallpaper or modern wood paneling, indicating several remodelings in recent years. Ceilings are largely painted paper with no crowns other than wallpaper borders in the papered rooms. Interior window casings are plain board with modestly moulded aprons and crowns. Front room baseboards feature small cyma recta topmoulds with quarter round shoes; back room baseboards are plain boards with shoes. Flooring throughout consists of unpainted tongue-in-groove 3½"wide pine boards. The kitchen has painted walls and ceiling, new cabinets and wood paneling wainscot. The only sign of architectural sophistication inside the house is the large archway between living and dining rooms, with its engaged posts.
3. Stairways: a simple enclosed stairway rises north-south to the attic from the small hallway between bedrooms.
4. Doorways and doors: primarily four-panel doors inside. The single pocket door is a five-panel; all feature mortise passage cast iron locksets.
5. Mechanical systems: The house is plumbed and wired for electricity. Heating is by stoves (now removed).

D. Description of Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house is sited facing east on a corner lot, with overgrown landscaping all around.
2. Outbuildings: none remaining. In addition to the shed shown immediately behind the main building on the 1910 Sanborn Map, another smaller shed is shown at the rear of the site on the west property line.

Prepared by: Clayton B. Fraser
Principal, Fraserdesign
August 1982

See Shockley Firestone Building (HABS No. MO-1245), and Walnut-Dollison Historic District (HABS No. MO-1252) for further information.